

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A molding apparatus, the apparatus comprising:
  - a base;
  - a heating component mounted to the base;
  - a melt pan mounted to the base, the melt pan further being heatable by the heating component, the melt pan being configured to receive material to be melted and to facilitate the drainage of the melted received material from the melt pan;
  - a mold mounted to the base, the mold having a cavity and being configured to receive the melted material from the melt pan;
  - a cover, attachable to the base, and further having an open position and a closed position, wherein access to the melt pan and mold is blocked by the cover in its closed position;
  - a locking mechanism that secures the cover in its closed position for a predetermined time.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, the mold further comprising two components wherein one of the components is removable from the base.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, further including a tab to attach the removable mold component to the base.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, the melt pan further having a melting position, wherein material is melted, and a pouring position from which the melted material drains into the mold.
5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein a knob operates a

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the melt pan is pivotally attached to the base.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cover is clear.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cover is pivotally attached to the base.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism includes a spring-operated timer.

14. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cover includes a notch that is engaged by the locking mechanism.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the locking mechanism includes a slotted wheel that operates a linkage that facilitates engagement of the locking mechanism with the

notch.

16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the timer controls the operation of the heating component.

17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the timer includes a escapement.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a switch that actuates the heating component.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the timer includes a cam that controls the switch.

20. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the heating component comprises an electric bulb.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the electric bulb is at least partially enveloped by a metal housing.

22. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the heating element is controlled by a tilt switch.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the tilt switch includes a plunger connected to a switch lever.

24. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the electric bulb is powered by alternating current.

25. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the electric bulb is powered by direct current.

26. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cavity in the

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mold is elongated.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the cavity has a bottom and the cavity is tapered at the bottom.

28. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the cavity is circular in cross-section.

29. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cavity is in the shape of a writing instrument.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the shape is a crayon.

31. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cavity has a top and the cavity is tapered at the top to create a funnel.

32. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein one of the mold components has a bead and the other mold component has a channel.

33. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the melt pan has a channel.

34. An apparatus for melting crayon material, the apparatus comprising:

- a base,
- a heating component disposed within the base,
- a melt pan that receives the crayon material, the melt pan being pivotally mounted to the base, and configured to absorb heat from the heating component, the melt pan further having a melting position wherein the crayon material is received and melted, and a pouring position, wherein the

10/20/2017 08:34:00

melted crayon material drain from the melt pan,

a crayon mold, configured to receive the melted crayon material from the melt pan when it is in the pouring position, wherein the mold has a crayon-shaped cavity, the mold further being capable of disassembly,

a cover pivotally mounted to the base, the cover further having a closed position, wherein it blocks access to the melt pan and the mold, and further having an open position wherein access to the melt pan and mold is not blocked,

a locking mechanism that locks the cover in its closed position, the locking mechanism further including a timer that secures the cover in its closed position for a predetermined time, the timer further controlling the operation of the heating component.

35. A molding apparatus kit, the kit comprising:

crayon material; and

a molding apparatus including:

a base;

a heating component mounted to the base;

a melt pan mounted to the base, the melt pan further being heatable by the heating component, the melt pan being configured to receive material to be melted and to facilitate the drainage of the melted received material from the melt pan;

a mold mounted to the base, the mold having a cavity and being configured to receive the melted material from the melt pan;

a cover, attachable to the base, and further having an open position and a closed position, wherein access to the melt pan and mold is blocked by the cover in its closed position;

a locking mechanism that secures the cover in its closed

2025-10-24 10:00:00

position for a predetermined time.

36. A method for making molded items using the molding apparatus in claim 1.

37. A method for making molded items comprising:  
placing material in a melt pan;  
activating a timer which activates a heat source to heat the melt pan and the timer prevents access to the melt pan  
moving the material in the melt pan into a mold when access to the melt pan is prevented.

38. The method as in claim 37 wherein the material is crayon material.

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